

Research program IZS VE 19/16

A pilot survey to identify presence of Cryptosporium spp, Rotavirus group A, Coronavirus and E.coli K99/F5 in mountain small-medium sized dairy herds with and without neonatal diarrhea history and to investigate herd and animal-level risk factors

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Neonatal calf diarrhea (NCD) is a common disease affecting newborn calves worldwide and one of the main causes of economic losses in dairy herd production. Many infectious and non-infectious factors can lead to NCD: interaction of several pathogens and predisposing factors such as insufficient colostrum intake, poor colostrum quality, and inadequate hygienic and neonatal management procedures. Although various studies investigated calf/herd level factors influencing NCD appearance in large dairy farms, insufficient data regarding NCD predisposing factors on small medium-sized farms are available. Such family managed herds are characteristic of Alpine regions and we assume that calf management in these small farms differs from the wider studied larger herds.

The main objectives of this proposal are:

- To collect information about the presence of Cryptosporidium spp, Rotavirus, Coronavirus and E.coli K99/F5 in small-medium sized herds with and without NCD history
- To investigate herd and animal level risk factors for the appearance of NCD and for the carriership correlated with the mentioned pathogens in herds with and without NCD history